We claim:

1. A method for treating a bacterial disorder in skin of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said bacterial disorder, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating said bacterial disorder.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said bacterial disorder is selected from the group consisting of topical bacterial infections, impetigo, folliculitis, erythrasma, and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said topical bacterial infections are selected from the group consisting of primary infections, secondary infections, and combinations thereof.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said bacterial disorder

is caused by bacteria selected from the group consisting of gram positive bacteria, gram negative bacteria, and a combination thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition has a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion before mixing.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 50,000 to about 200,000 centipoises.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 100,000 to about 180,000 centipoises.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 60,000 to about 250,000 centipoises.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 110,000 to about 220,000 centipoises.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.5 to about 5.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.6 to about 4.8.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is formulated for once-per-day administration.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said once-per-day administration occurs in the A.M.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is formulated for twice-per-day administration.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is selected from the group consisting of a gel, cream, lotion, suspension, emulsion, ointment, foam, and mixtures thereof.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said topical composition is applied using an applicator.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said applicator is selected from the group consisting of a pledget, a pad, and a

combination thereof.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is provided in a package of less than 5 g topical composition as a unit of use.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is stored at a temperature of less than about 30 °C.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein said benzoyl peroxide is about 65% to about 80% pure.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein said mixture comprises about 0.5% to about 20% by weight percent benzoyl peroxide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said mixture comprises about 1% to about 12.5% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said mixture comprises about 1.5% to about 6.25% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition further contains at least one additional inactive ingredient in an amount effective to enhance the stability of said composition.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one additional inactive ingredient is selected from the group consisting of carbomer, disodium monolauryl sulfosuccinate, disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (disodium EDTA), methyl paraben, poloxamer, glycerin, dimethicone, hydrated silica, sodium hydroxide, purified water, derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein said method is capable of treating a related skin disorder selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial resistant bacterial infections, atopic dermatitis, bromhidrosis, chronic paronychia, Fox Fordyce Disease, Hailey-Hailey Disease, Hidradenitits suppurativa, intertrigo, nummular dermatitis, otopyorrhea, perioral dermatitis, angular chelitis, pre-surgical skin prophylaxis, Pseudofolliculitis barbae, psoriasis, Pyoderma gangrenosum, seborrheic dermatitis, skin ulcers, and combinations thereof.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein said topical composition is topically applied to sensitive skin areas, irritated skin areas, or infected skin areas.

28. A method for reducing or eliminating bacteria from skin

of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to skin of a patient infected with said bacteria a topical composition in an amount effective to reduce or eliminate said bacteria, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in reducing or eliminating said bacteria.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said bacteria is selected from the group consisting of gram positive bacteria, gram negative bacteria, and combinations thereof.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said gram positive bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus* sp., *Micrococcus* sp., *Staphylococcus* sp., *Bacillus* sp., *Corynebacterium* sp., *Clostridium* sp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, and combinations thereof.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said *Streptococcus* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *S. viridans*, *S.*

agalactiae, *S. pyogenes*, *S. faecalis*, *S. durans*, *S. faecium*, *S. mutans*, *S. sanguis*, *S. salivarius*, *S. mitior*, *S. constellatus*, *S. intermedius*, *S. anginosus*, *S. milleri*, *S. iniae*, *S. pneumoniae*, and combinations thereof.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein said *Staphylococcus* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *S. aureus*, *S. epidermis*, and combinations thereof.

33. The method of claim 30, wherein said *Corynebacterium* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *C. minutissimum*, *C. jeikeium*, *C. urealyticum*, *C. xerosis*, and combinations thereof.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein said *Clostridium* sp. is selected from the group consisting of *C. perfringens*, *C. tetani*, *C. botulinum*, *C. difficile*, and combinations thereof.

35. The method of claim 29, wherein said gram negative bacteria is selected from the group consisting of *Proteus* sp., *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas* sp., *Pasteurella multocida*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Vibrio vulnificus*, and combinations thereof.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said *Pseudonomas* sp. is

P. aeruginosa.

37. The method of claim 28, wherein said topical composition has a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion before mixing.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 50,000 to about 200,000 centipoises.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 60,000 to about 250,000 centipoises.

40. The method of claim 28, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.5 to about 5.

41. The method of claim 28, wherein said topical composition is formulated for once-per-day or twice-per-day administration.

42. The method of claim 28, wherein said topical composition is selected from the group consisting of a gel,

cream, lotion, suspension, emulsion, ointment, foam, and mixtures thereof.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein said topical composition is applied using an applicator.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein said applicator is selected from the group consisting of a pledget, a pad, and a combination thereof.

45. The method of claim 28, wherein said topical composition is provided in a package of less than 5 g topical composition as a unit of use.

46. The method of claim 28, wherein said mixture comprises about 0.5% to about 20% by weight percent benzoyl peroxide.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein said mixture comprises about 1% to about 12.5% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein said mixture comprises about 1.5% to about 6.25% by weight benzoyl peroxide.

49. The method of claim 28, wherein said composition

further contains at least one additional inactive ingredient in an amount effective to enhance the stability of said composition.

50. The method of claim 28, wherein said topical composition is topically applied to sensitive skin areas, irritated skin areas, or infected skin areas.

51. A method for treating a bacterial disorder in a patient having sensitive skin, comprising:

topically administering to sensitive skin areas of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said bacterial disorder, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating said bacterial disorder in said sensitive skin.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said topical composition has a viscosity lower than the viscosity of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion before mixing.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein said topical composition, after addition of the benzoyl peroxide dispersion, has a final viscosity of about 50,000 to about 200,000 centipoises.

54. The method of claim 52, wherein said benzoyl peroxide dispersion, prior to making said topical composition, has a viscosity of about 60,000 to about 250,000 centipoises.

55. The method of claim 51, wherein said topical composition has a final pH of about 4.5 to about 5.

56. A method for treating a topical bacterial infection in skin of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said topical bacterial infection, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in

treating said topical bacterial infection.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein said topical bacterial infection is selected from the group consisting of primary infections, secondary infections, and combinations thereof.

58. A method for treating impetigo in skin of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said impetigo, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating said impetigo.

59. A method for treating folliculitis in skin of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said folliculitis, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion,

clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating said folliculitis.

60. A method for treating erythrasma in skin of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said erythrasma, wherein said composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating said erythrasma.

61. A method for treating a bacterial disorder in skin of a patient, comprising:

topically administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof a topical composition in an amount effective to treat said bacterial disorder, wherein said topical composition comprises:

a storage-stable mixture of a benzoyl peroxide dispersion, clindamycin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier,

wherein said topical composition has a viscosity that enhances the effectiveness of the topical composition in treating said bacterial disorder;

and wherein said topical composition is administered concomitantly or sequentially with an additional active agent effective to treat said bacterial disorder.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein said additional active agent is administered with said topical composition either in adjunctive or co-therapy.

63. The method of claim 61, wherein said additional active agent is selected from the group consisting of other macrolide antibiotics, bactericidal drugs, bacteriostatic drugs, cleansing agents, absorbents, anti-infective agents, anti-inflammatory agents, astringents, emollients, moisturizers, keratolytics, retinoids, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.